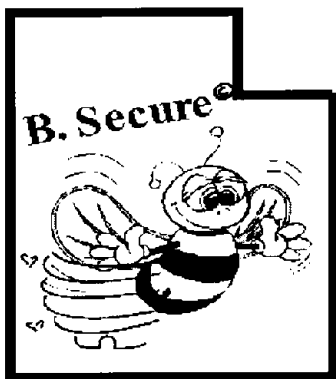


## Avoid "BEEing" a Victim of Theft



B. Secure here. As I've been in and out and around the office, I've noticed several things that have got me buzzing. For example, I've seen people leaving their cars unlocked, with keys and packages still inside, and offices with purses and electronic equipment left out in the open. These actions are an open invitation to criminals, who keep themselves busy as bees looking for these opportunities. All the stolen packages, CD's, and purses have me as mad as a hornet.

Lets make every criminal's job harder by slowing down and locking valuables. If you use your common sense, you can avoid a lot of everyday stings.

Here's an example of a recent news report. Unlocked cars and garage doors left open at night are partially responsible for the thirty-five cases of burglary that have been reported since Friday, on the east side of town. "We've had a real rash of thefts," said the police. "It's a crime of opportunity. Burglars have been preying on unlocked car doors, unlocked garage side doors, and open garage doors, stealing whatever they can from ashtrays with coins to wallets and tools stored in the garage."

I recommend that we keep things locked up. Remember to lock your doors, even when you are at home. It's a B. Secure fact that sixty-five percent of residential burglaries occur during the day. Crime can pay. Most criminals need money, and a quick purse theft or auto burglary can be the perfect way for them to make a few extra dollars. Even if you know the items in your car or purse aren't worth anything, criminals don't, and they won't mind looking or breaking a window just to make sure.

Remember seventy-five percent of property crimes nationally remain unsolved. This number hasn't changed in over twenty years. Criminals are smart. Pretend you're a criminal. Can your security be beaten? If so, lets find a way to improve it.

Another factor to remember is intuition. Locking up valuables helps deter crime, but intuition tells us when we need to take additional measures to protect ourselves from crime. Recently a trio robbed a women of her purse at gunpoint. The woman was confronted by pounding on the front door. Someone outside ordered the woman to open the door or he threatened to shoot. A man and woman inside the home fled out the back door, but the one woman remained inside and was confronted by a man pointing a gun at her. Intuition is very real. If you feel something is wrong, take action. Try to avoid the situation by calling the police or running away.

So to summarize; be careful, lock up valuables, and be observant so you can recognize potentially dangerous situations. If you rely on prevention and your natural instincts, you'll be able to trip up most would be criminals and avoid being another statistic.

Until next time, remember...Be smart, Be safe and B. Secure.